



aviation spotting log software

Spot2Log

USER MANUAL

TABLE OF CONTENTS

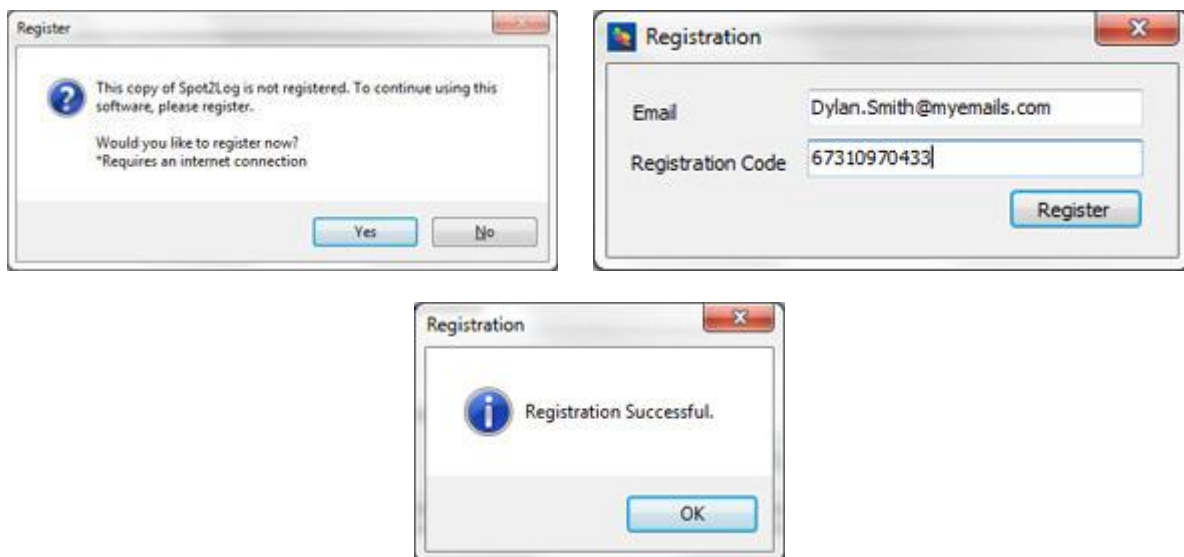
Home Page Introduction	4
Add an Entry	5
Add an Entry for Previously Seen Aircraft	6
Searching for an Aircraft	7
Viewing Entries.....	10
Updating Viewings.....	11
Deleting Viewings	11
Printing Viewings.....	11
Backing Up Spot2Log Data and Photos	12
Restore Data and Photos from a Backup.....	12
Global Bulk Update.....	13
Reports	13
Downloading Updates for Spot2Log.....	14
Technical Support Information.....	15

Registering Spot2Log

Registering Spot2Log is necessary for the first use of Spot2Log. You should receive a registration code from Spot2Log when purchasing your copy.

Open Spot2Log, you will be prompted for your registration email and registration code. You will require an active internet connection to connect to the registration server. If you have lost your registration code or do not have access to the internet, please visit www.spot2log.com from an internet enabled computer and go to Support for information on how to retrieve a registration code.

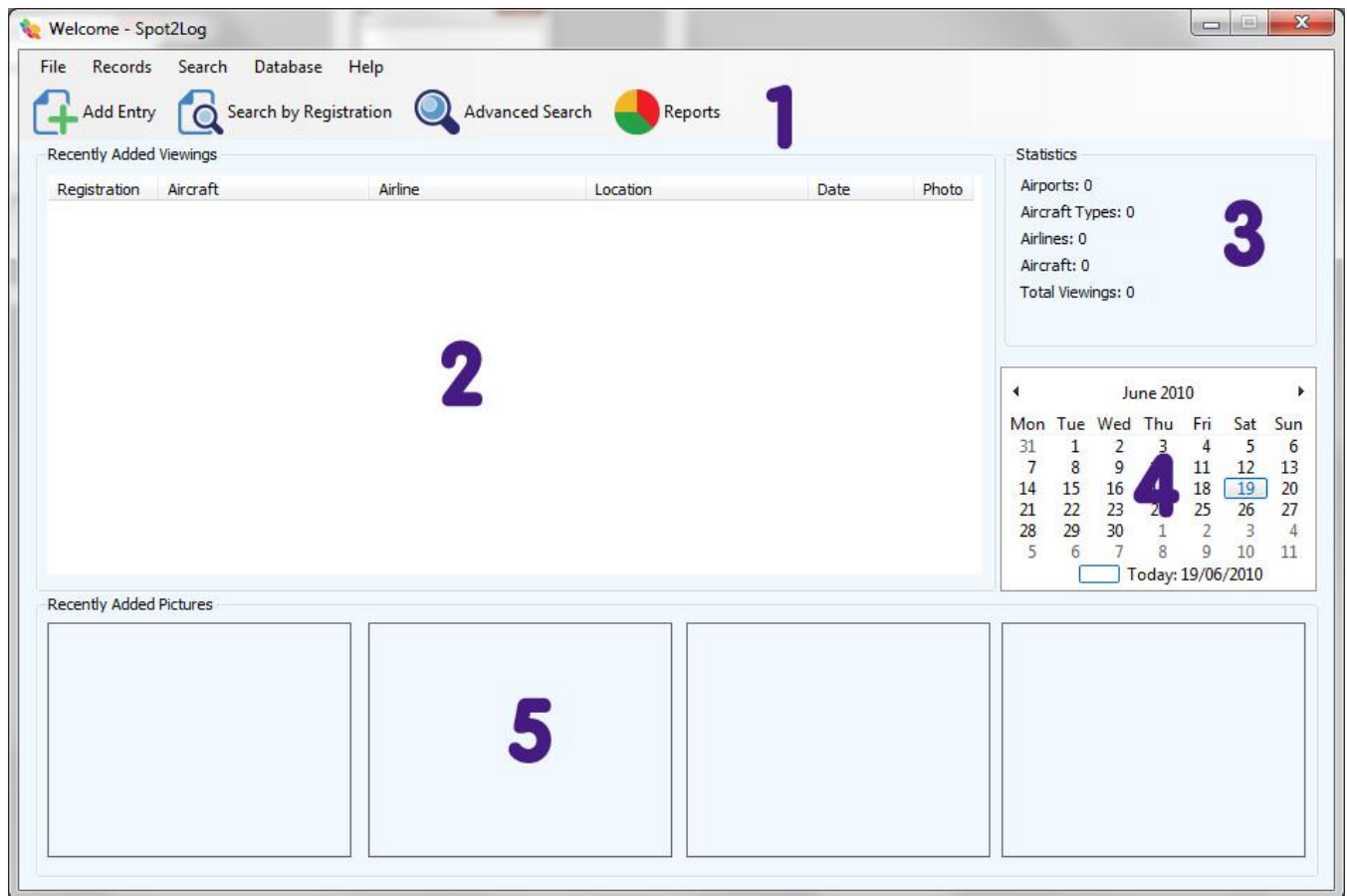
Clicking register will activate your copy of Spot2Log, and you should not need to enter this again unless you reinstall the software.



Spot2Log will open once registration has been successful.

HOME PAGE INTRODUCTION

On first load, the home screen will be blank as there is no data available. Once you have started entering your data, the recent viewings, photos and statistics should start filling up.



1 – Quick Access Toolbar

Access some of the main function of Spot2Log from this toolbar. Other ways of accessing these options are from the menu at the top of the window.

2 – Recently Added Viewings

This section keeps track of the latest entries that you have put into Spot2Log.

3 – Statistics

Statistics are updated as you enter new items. It can tell you how many airports you've been to, how many types of aircraft you have seen, the number of different airlines, and the number of physical aircraft.

4 – Trip Calendar

As you enter new entries, dates on the calendar will become bold, informing you of the days that you saw aircraft. By clicking on a bold date, you will get a list of all of the aircraft seen on that day.

5 – Recently Added Pictures

The recently added pictures strip will fill with the thumbnails pictures of viewings that have recently been entered into Spot2Log. Double clicking on the picture will display the corresponding viewing entry.

ADD AN ENTRY

The more you use Spot2Log to record your spotting entries, the easier and quicker it will become to record.

TIP: If you are switching between a folder of photos and Spot2Log for each entry, you can set Spot2Log to always be on top of all windows so that it doesn't keep flickering behind your folder window. To set this go to View > Always on Top. To disable this, click Always on Top again.

- 1) Begin by typing the aircraft registration into the **Registration** field.
- 2) In the aircraft section on the right hand side, type the aircraft type and click **Add**. If the aircraft type is already in the list below, just scroll through the box and select it. The **Aircraft** field on the left will then complete with your selection.

TIP: You can also search aircraft types by typing in the aircraft type box on the right. As you type, it will go through the list and highlight the potential type. Select to accept.

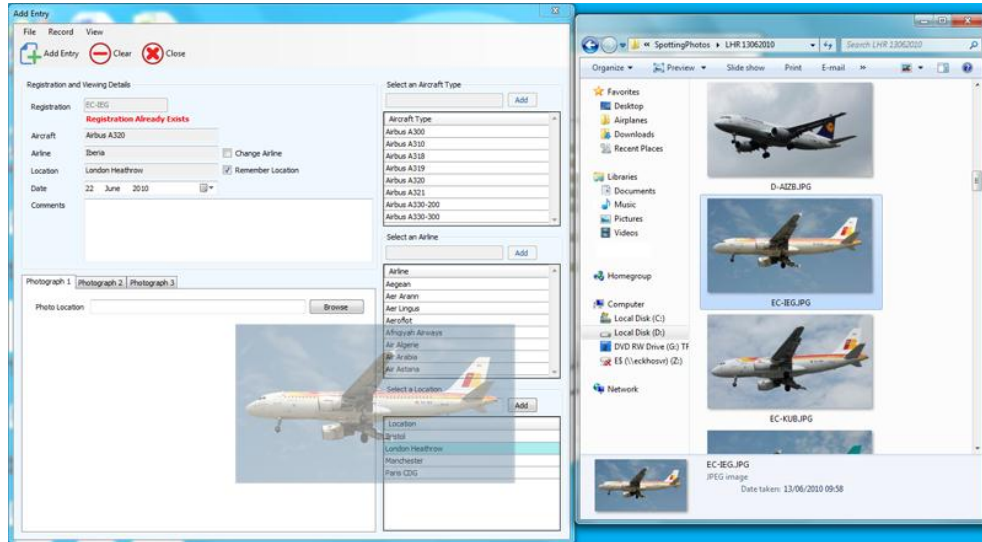
- 3) Follow the same process as step 2, for Airline and Location.

TIP: The list of airlines can potentially be quite long. Don't forget to take advantage of being able to type the beginning of the airline, to see if it is already in the list. Click on the name if it finds airline you want. If it's not in the list, just click Add.

- 4) If you are inputting a spotting log from a trip, tick the **Remember Location** box next to location. When you add the entry, it will remember the location and date, so you don't have to keep inputting it.
- 5) Select the spotting date using the date picker.
- 6) If you have any comments to add about the aircraft, such as a special livery, or its operation, then place these comments in the box provided.

- 7) You can add up to 3 pictures per viewing. To add the pictures, you can browse to the photo location by clicking on **Browse** and selecting the photo. Once selected, a preview will appear in Photograph 1, 2 or 3 depending on the tab that you are on.

TIP: You can drag your photos from your photo folder, into the photo area on the Add Entry page. It will input the picture for you automatically.



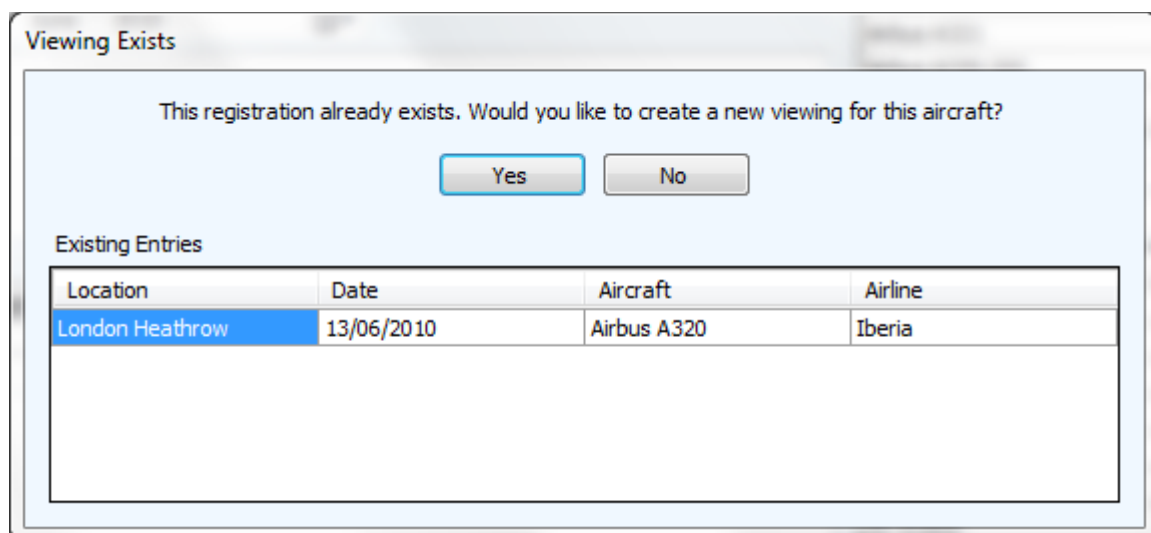
Drag the photo straight from a folder into Spot2Log

Note: Photos are not physically stored in the Spot2Log database, but are linked to the file on your computer. If you move the location of the photo on your computer, you will have to update Spot2Log with the new location as well.

- 8) Once all of the necessary fields are complete, click **Save Entry**.

ADD AN ENTRY FOR PREVIOUSLY SEEN AIRCRAFT

In Spot2Log you can log an aircraft more than once, so you track how many times you see a particular aircraft. When you enter the registration, Spot2Log does an automatic search to see if the aircraft is already in your log. If an entry already exists for this aircraft, it will prompt you to say if you would like to carry on adding the entry, or if you would rather miss this one out.



It tells you when you last saw it. This is just in case you see the same aircraft twice in the same day, you probably will not need to enter it more than once. If you click **Yes**, Spot2Log will carry over all of the Aircraft Type and Airline information from the last time you saw it.

Registrations rarely get transferred from one aircraft type to another so this is permanent, however airline transfers are quite common, so there is a check box next to the Airline field called **Change Airline**. If you tick this box, the airline selection box on the right becomes active, and you can change the airline.

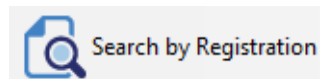
Continue adding the entry as normal by entering the date, location, comments and photos.

SEARCHING FOR AN AIRCRAFT

There are 2 ways to search for entries in Spot2Log. The first is a basic search by Registration, and then second is an Advanced Search, in which you can specify many options to narrow down or widen your results.

Search by Registration

If you know the registration of the aircraft you want to search for, click on **Search by Registration**. Enter the registration, and click **Search**.



If no results are found, you will be notified. If results are found, a list of all of the entries for that registration are displayed.

Search Results					
Close		Results: 2			
Registration	Airline	Aircraft	Location	Date	Photo
G-EUPA	British Airways	Airbus A319	London Heathrow	24 April 2010	
G-EUPA	British Airways	Airbus A319	London Heathrow	13 June 2010	

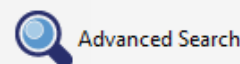
In this example G-EUPA, there are 2 results. Search results notify you if there are any photos attached to a viewing. You can see from these results that the entry from 24 April 2010 has a photo available.

To view an entry, double click the record, and it will open up.

Advanced Search

The advanced search facility allows you to further define what you are looking for. Example, you can search for all of the Boeing 757 aircraft you have seen at London Heathrow between 2 dates. You can search on all fields available.

To start an advanced search, click **Advanced Search** on the main screen.



Registration

Default Value: Any Registration

Options: Contains, Starts With, Equals, Ends With

If you want to search for part of a registration, you can use the options available. For example, a search for all aircraft registered in the United Kingdom, you would use – **Starts With: G-**

Date Range

Default Value: Any Date

Options: Before, After, Between

Searching between a range of dates is useful for when you have a spotting trip over a period of time. For example, a search for all aircraft seen on a particular weekend, select **Between** and choose your date range.

Photos

Default Value: With or Without Photos

Options: With Photos, Without Photos

A search can be made on results that only contain photos, or no photos.

Aircraft Types

Default Value: All Aircraft Types

You can specify what aircraft types you want to search for. Tick the box against the types you want to select.

Locations

Default Value: All Locations

You can specify what locations you want to search for. Tick the box against the locations you want to select.

Airlines

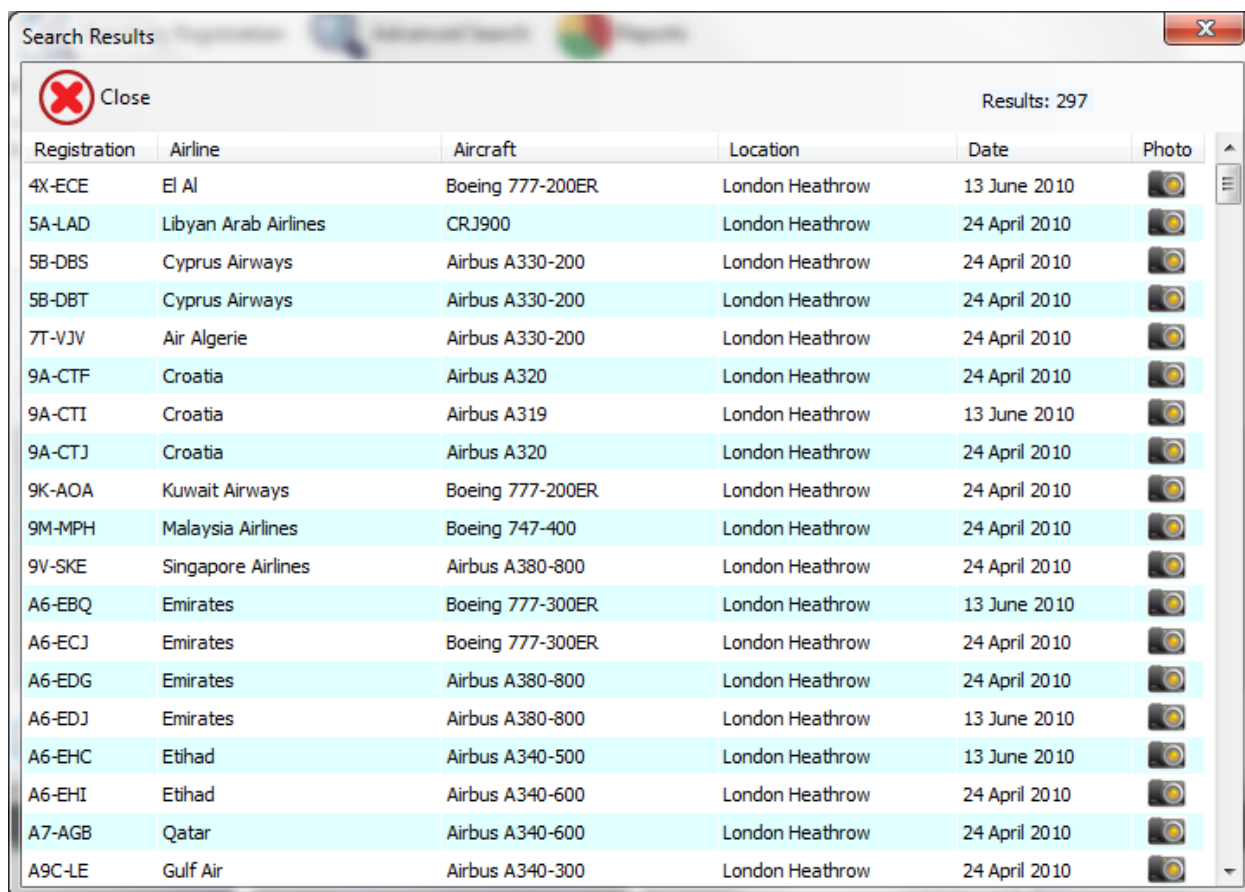
Default Value: All Airlines

You can specify what airlines you want to search for. Tick the box against the airlines you want to select.

As you specify different criteria, the Advanced Search window will provide an update as to how many results you will retrieve from the current criteria. You can find the number of results at the bottom.

Once you are happy with your criteria, click **Search**.

If no results are found, you will be notified. If results are found, a list of all of the entries for your criteria are displayed.



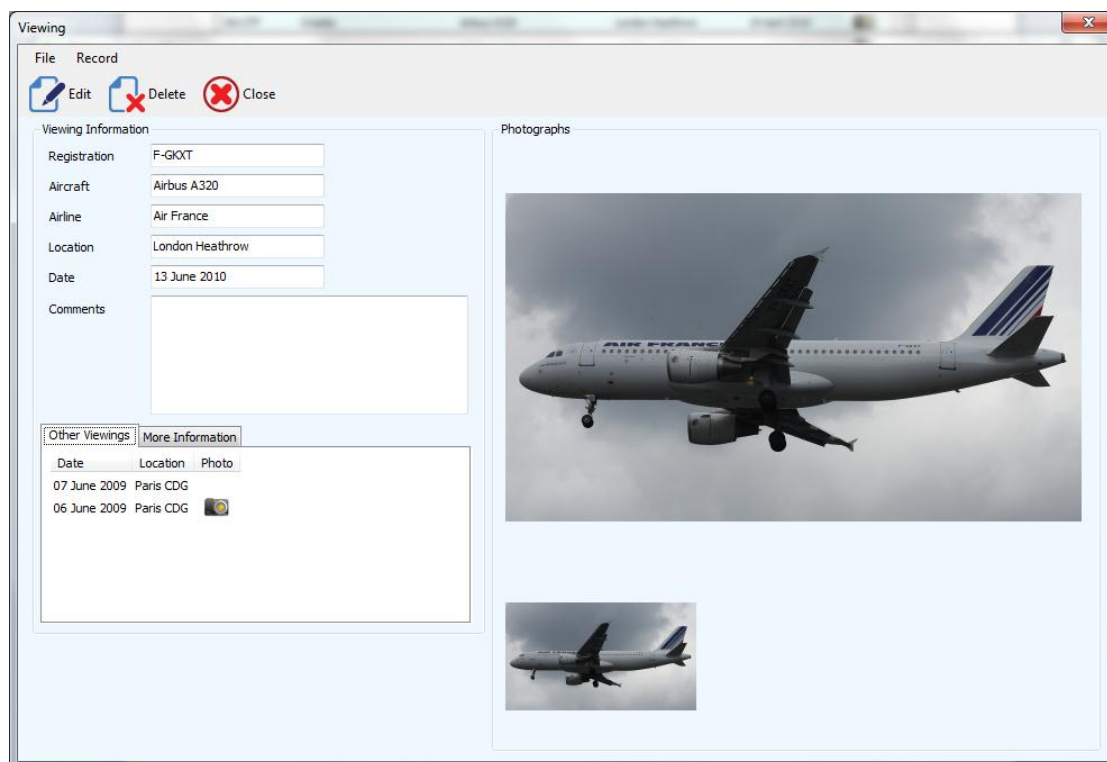
Search Results Close Results: 297

Registration	Airline	Aircraft	Location	Date	Photo
4X-ECE	El Al	Boeing 777-200ER	London Heathrow	13 June 2010	
5A-LAD	Libyan Arab Airlines	CRJ900	London Heathrow	24 April 2010	
5B-DBS	Cyprus Airways	Airbus A330-200	London Heathrow	24 April 2010	
5B-DBT	Cyprus Airways	Airbus A330-200	London Heathrow	24 April 2010	
7T-VJV	Air Algerie	Airbus A330-200	London Heathrow	24 April 2010	
9A-CTF	Croatia	Airbus A320	London Heathrow	24 April 2010	
9A-CTI	Croatia	Airbus A319	London Heathrow	13 June 2010	
9A-CTJ	Croatia	Airbus A320	London Heathrow	24 April 2010	
9K-AOA	Kuwait Airways	Boeing 777-200ER	London Heathrow	24 April 2010	
9M-MPH	Malaysia Airlines	Boeing 747-400	London Heathrow	24 April 2010	
9V-SKE	Singapore Airlines	Airbus A380-800	London Heathrow	24 April 2010	
A6-EBQ	Emirates	Boeing 777-300ER	London Heathrow	13 June 2010	
A6-ECJ	Emirates	Boeing 777-300ER	London Heathrow	24 April 2010	
A6-EDG	Emirates	Airbus A380-800	London Heathrow	24 April 2010	
A6-EDJ	Emirates	Airbus A380-800	London Heathrow	13 June 2010	
A6-EHC	Etihad	Airbus A340-500	London Heathrow	13 June 2010	
A6-EHI	Etihad	Airbus A340-600	London Heathrow	24 April 2010	
A7-AGB	Qatar	Airbus A340-600	London Heathrow	24 April 2010	
A9C-LE	Gulf Air	Airbus A340-300	London Heathrow	24 April 2010	

In this example there are 297 results for a search for all entries with photos at London Heathrow. Search results notify you if there are any photos attached to a viewing.

To view an entry, double click the record, and it will open up.

VIEWING ENTRIES



The record displayed shows all of the detail that was inputted when first entered. If you have more than one photo for the viewing, click on the small thumbnails, and the large picture will change. To open up the picture in your computers picture viewer, double click the large picture. If you want to know the location of the picture, right click and select **Copy Image Location to Clipboard**. The file path will be copied to your computers clipboard and you will be able to paste it into a Windows Explorer address bar, word document processor or internet page.

You can see in the record above that F-GKXT has been seen more than once. It was also seen twice in Paris. By double clicking on these other viewings, the window will update and show those entries.

UPDATING VIEWINGS

If there are any incorrect details in the entry for example and incorrect date, or the location of the photo has changed, click on **Edit**.

The 'Update Viewing' dialog box is shown. It includes a 'File' menu and a 'Record' button. The 'Registration and Viewing Details' section contains fields for Registration (F-GKXT), Aircraft (Airbus A320), Airline (Air France), Location (London Heathrow), and Date (13 June 2010). There are checkboxes for 'Change Aircraft', 'Change Airline', 'Change Location', 'Change Date', and 'Change Comments'. The 'Photograph' section shows 'Photograph 1' selected, with a 'Photo Location' field and a 'Browse' button. A large image of an Air France Airbus A320 is displayed. On the right, there are three lists: 'Select an Aircraft Type' (listing various Airbus models), 'Select an Airline' (listing various airlines), and 'Select a Location' (listing various airports). Each list has an 'Add' button.

The edit screen is similar to the Add Entry screen. However, by default all of the fields are locked for safety to avoid accidental editing. To change the Aircraft Type, check the **Change Aircraft** box and select the desired aircraft type from the list. If you uncheck the **Change Aircraft** box at any time, it will default back to its original value. Click **Update** when you have updated the necessary fields.

DELETING VIEWINGS

When you have found the viewing you want to delete. Click **Delete** from the top menu. The entry will then be deleted from Spot2Log. The only way to get this back is to do a restore of a backup containing the entry.

PRINTING VIEWINGS

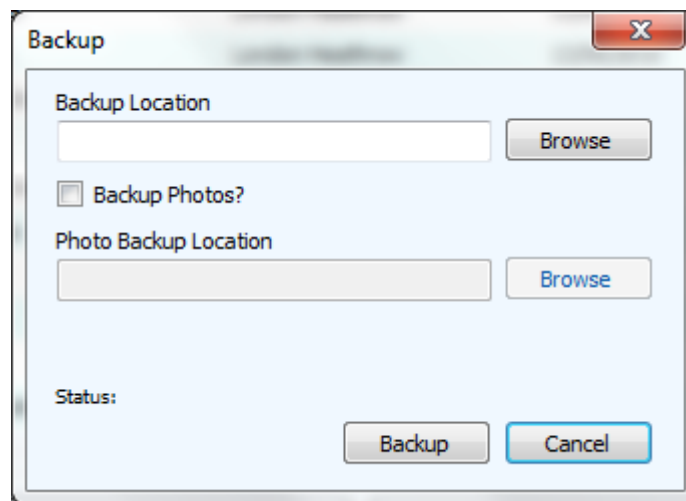
You can print a single viewing. Open the viewing you want to print, and go to **File > Print**.

BACKING UP SPOT2LOG DATA AND PHOTOS

It is recommended that you backup your Spot2Log data on a regular basis. Spot2Log will regularly ask you to back up the data if you have not done so in a couple of uses of the program.

Spot2Log has a built-in backup process so you will not need to copy any system files manually. You can also choose to backup your photos that you have entered as well if you have the storage space. If there is not enough storage space on your selected backup location, you will be notified.

To backup your data, in the Main screen, go to **Database > Backup**.



By default the **Backup Photos** options is unticked and therefore it will not backup any of your photos.

You can backup the data on its own, by clicking on **Browse** and choosing a location to store your backup. The backup file is very small so will not need a lot of space.

If you want to backup photos, tick **Backup Photos**, and select **Browse** next to photos. Choose a backup location for these. The backup file size will change depending on the size and quantity of your photos. It is recommended that you either save your backup to an external hard drive or memory stick, or burn the backup to a disc for safe keeping.

Click **Backup**.

If there isn't enough storage space for your backup, Spot2Log will tell you and the backup will be aborted. Otherwise, the backup will commence, and the status at the bottom of the window will tell you what the current photo being backed up is.

You cannot cancel the backup once it has started.

RESTORE DATA AND PHOTOS FROM A BACKUP

In the event of a data loss, reinstall or any other circumstance which would require a restore, you can do so from a Spot2Log backup. You can restore data and or photos. If you have made any changes since the backup was made, you will lose them after the restore.

To restore, go to the Main screen and click **Database > Restore**.

Select the data backup, and the photo backup (if required), and click **Restore**. The status will notify you of the current photo being restored.

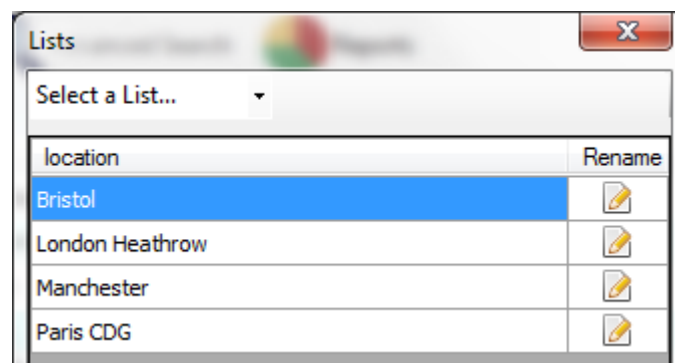
Note: The photos will be restored to the same location as you defined in the Add Entry process. You cannot cancel a restore during the process. If the backup is corrupt or invalid, Spot2Log ask you if you want to create a blank database.

GLOBAL BULK UPDATE

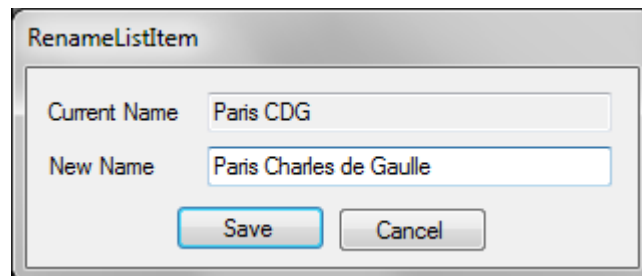
Sometimes, names of airports change, airlines change their names, or you may find that you want to rename your airports to their ICAO/IATA codes. Instead of going through each viewing to update the names, you can do so quickly and easily in Spot2Log.

Go to the Main screen then **Records > Lists**. In the top drop down box, select Aircraft Types, Airports or Locations. All of the different values that you have in database will be listed.

In this example, I have 251 viewings for Paris CDG. I want to rename all of the entries with Paris CDG to Paris Charles De Gaulle.



In lists, select **Locations**, and click on the edit icon next to Paris CDG.



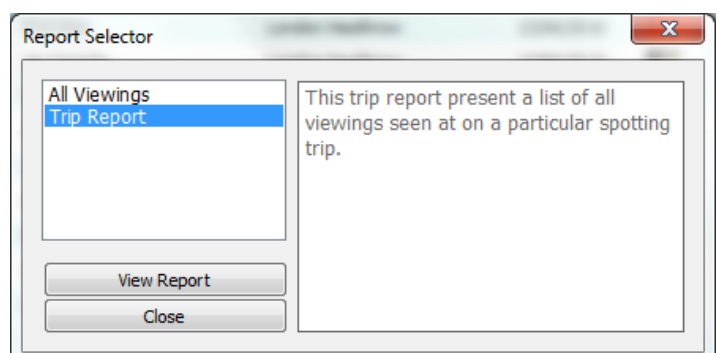
Type in the new name – Paris Charles De Gaulle and click **Save**. All of the entries relating to Paris CDG, will now have been renamed to Paris Charles de Gaulle.

You can do this for all Locations, Airlines and Aircraft Types.

REPORTS

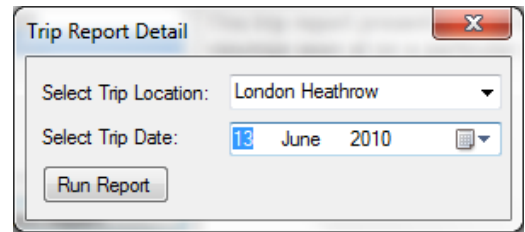
There are 2 reports available in Spot2Log – All Viewings and a Trip Report.

To open a report, click on the **Reports** button on the main screen. You will see the selection of reports available with a description on the side.

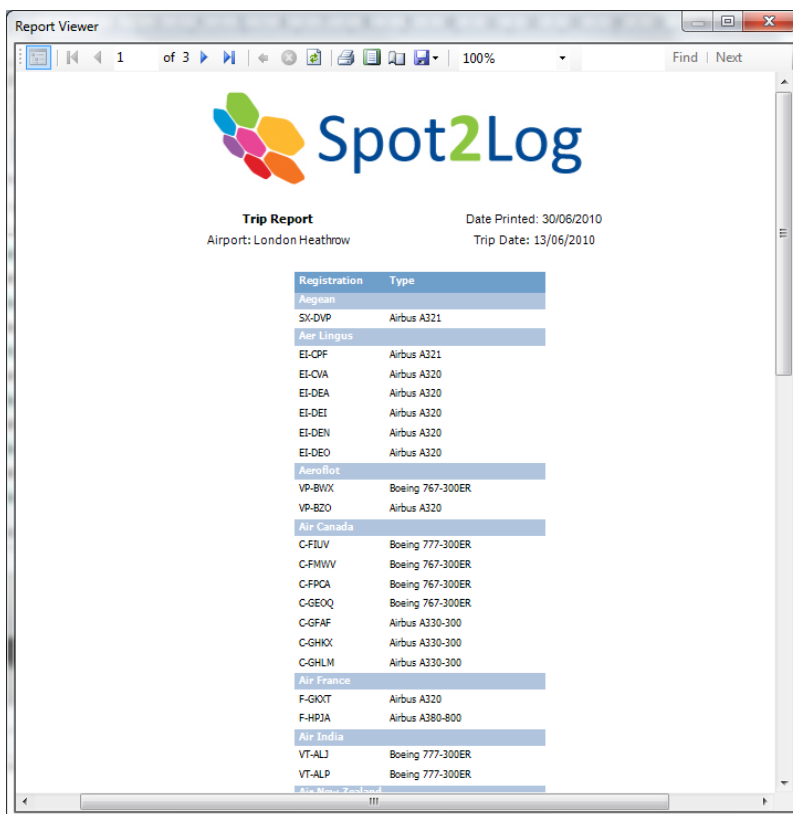


The all viewings will list all of the viewings in the Spot2Log database. The trip report will produce a complete listing of all of the viewings seen on a particular trip.

If you want to see the trip report, click **Trip Report** and **View Report**. You will now need to specify what trip you want the details for.



In this example, I have chosen London Heathrow as the location, and the date of my trip. Clicking **Run Report** will display the list of all aircraft seen, grouped by airline.

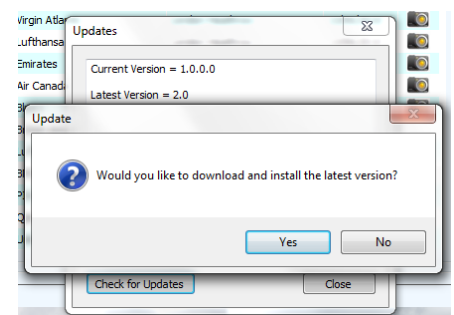


DOWNLOADING UPDATES FOR SPOT2LOG

From time to time there may be updates for Spot2Log which will fix potential bugs that may be found, or include additional features.

To check for updates, go to **Help > Check for Updates**. Click on **Check for Updates**. You will need an active internet connection to connect to the update server. If there are updates available, it will ask you if you want to download the update.

The new installation file will be downloaded to your computer, and will run automatically. It will keep your current data so you should not need to do a restore of your data. However, we recommend that you backup your data (see [Backing up Spot2Log Data and Photos](#)).



TECHNICAL SUPPORT INFORMATION

If you have any problems with the software, installing or general use, then please visit our website – www.spot2log.com for access to our forums and support contact forms.